

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A fibrous non-woven non-heat seal porous web material consisting of a single, wet laid layer and comprising a substantially homogeneous mixture of 0.5 to 25 percent by weight of synthetic material with natural fibers comprising the remainder of said web material.
2. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1, comprising 1 to 10 percent by weight synthetic material.
3. (previously presented) The web material of claim 2, wherein the natural fibers are selected from jute, kraft, abaca, hemp, kenaf, wood and mixtures thereof.
4. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1, having a basis weight of 9 to 19 g/m².
5. (original) The web material of claim 1, wherein the synthetic material is not fully thermally activated.
6. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1, wherein the synthetic material comprises synthetic pulp having a micro-fibrillar structure with natural fibers comprising the remainder of said web material.
7. (original) The web material of claim 6, wherein the synthetic pulp consists of a polyolefin material.
8. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1, wherein the synthetic material is selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof.

9. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1 comprising first phase constituents comprising at least one of synthetic material or natural fibers and second phase constituents comprising at least one of synthetic material or natural fibers, wherein the constituents of each phase are substantially homogeneously distributed throughout the single wet laid layer.

10. (previously cancelled without prejudice)

11. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1, wherein the natural fibers comprise long natural fibers.

12. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1 having a dry crimp strength at least twenty percent greater than a fibrous non-woven non-heat seal porous web material consisting of the same fibers but without the synthetic material.

13. (original) The web material of claim 1 having a synthetic material amount insufficient to form a heat seal bond.

14. (original) The web material of claim 1 having a first color within the range of 6 to 8 seconds and a %transmittance within the range of 50 to 75.

15. (previously presented) An infusion package comprising the web material of claim 1, said web material being mechanically folded without heat sealing to enclose a beverage precursor material therein.

16. (currently amended) A process of making a fibrous non-woven non-heat seal porous web material of enhanced dry crimp strength consisting of a single layer and comprising:

forming a slurry of natural fibers;

adding synthetic materials to said slurry to form a furnish;

wet laying said furnish to form a single layer web; and

drying said web to form said web material, wherein the amount and activation of synthetic materials in the web material provides the web material with a heat seal seam strength that is not acceptable for use as a heat sealable, infusion packaging web material.

17. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein said web material comprises 0.5 to 25 percent synthetic materials.

18. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein said web material has a basis weight of 11 to 17 g/m² and comprises 1 to 10 percent synthetic materials.

19. (previously cancelled without prejudice)

20. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein said web material has a first color within the range of 6 to 8 seconds and a %transmittance within the range of 50 to 75.

21. (previously presented) The process of claim 16 including the steps of forming an additional furnish comprising at least one of synthetic material or natural fibers and wet laying one of the furnishes over the other furnish to form the single layer web, wherein the synthetic material and natural fibers are substantially homogeneously distributed throughout the single layer web.

22. (previously presented) A non-woven porous web material, wherein:
the web material consists of a single, wet laid layer;
the web material has a basis weight from about 9 g/m² to about 19 g/m²;
the web material is acceptable for use as infusion packaging web material;

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the web material has a heat seal seam strength that is unacceptable for use as a heat sealable, infusion packaging web material; and

the web material comprises a substantially homogeneous mixture of about 0.5 percent to about 25 percent by weight of synthetic material selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof and about 75 percent to about 95.5 percent of natural fibers.